

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (currently amended) A network device managing apparatus that receives a search request transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs a search for network devices in response to receiving the search request, and transmits a device list indicating the network devices found by performing the search to the data processing apparatus, the network device managing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit adapted to store ~~[[a]]~~ the device list indicating the network devices found by ~~[[a]]~~ performing the search, the device list being ~~associated~~ stored in association with identification information ~~that identifies a~~ identifying the data processing apparatus that ~~requested~~ transmitted the search request;

a receiving unit adapted to receive, from the data processing apparatus, a new search request for a new search ~~[[of]]~~ for network devices, and the identification information ~~of a~~ identifying the data processing apparatus ~~initiating~~ transmitting the new search request, ~~from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request~~;

a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response to the new search request received by the receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain, from among device lists stored in the storage unit and using the received identification information as a key, the ~~stored~~ device list associated

with the received identification information ~~received by the receiving unit~~, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search performed prior to performing the new search ~~performed~~ by the searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare ~~[[the]]~~ a new search result provided by the searching unit with the device list obtained by the obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify any network devices found by performing the new search by the searching unit but not present in the device list obtained by the obtaining unit, and to form a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the new search; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by the forming unit to the data processing apparatus.

2. (currently amended) A network device managing apparatus that receives a search request transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs a search for network devices in response to receiving the search request, and transmits a device list indicating the network devices found by performing the search to the data processing apparatus, the network device managing apparatus comprising:

a storage unit adapted to store ~~[[a]]~~ the device list indicating the network devices found by ~~[[a]]~~ performing the search, the device list being ~~associated~~ stored in association with identification information ~~that identifies a~~ identifying the data processing apparatus that ~~requested~~ transmitted the search request;

a receiving unit adapted to receive, from the data processing apparatus, a new search request for a new search ~~[[of]]~~ for network devices, and the identification information ~~of a~~ identifying the data processing apparatus ~~initiating~~ transmitting the new search request, ~~from the~~ data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching unit adapted to perform a new search for network devices in response to the new search request received by the receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain, ~~from~~, from among device lists stored in the storage unit and using the received identification information as a key, the ~~stored~~ device list associated with the received identification information ~~received by the receiving unit~~, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search performed prior to performing the new search ~~performed~~ by the searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare ~~[[the]]~~ a new search result provided by the searching unit with the device list obtained by the obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify any network devices found by performing the new search by the searching unit of which the state has been changed, and to form a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the new search; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the new device list formed by the forming unit to the data processing apparatus.

3. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the device list formed by the forming unit indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

4. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by the forming unit includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by the forming unit includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

6. (currently amended) A method performed by a network device managing apparatus that receives a search request transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs a search for network devices in response to receiving the search request, and transmits a device list indicating the network devices found by performing the search to the data processing apparatus, the method comprising:

a storage step of storing ~~[[a]]~~ the device list indicating the network devices found by performing the ~~[[a]]~~ search, the device list being ~~associated~~ stored in association with identification information ~~that identifies~~ identifying ~~[[a]]~~ the data processing apparatus that ~~requested~~ transmitted the search request;

a receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a new search request for a new search ~~[[of]]~~ for network devices, and the identification information ~~of a~~

~~identifying the data processing apparatus initiating transmitting the new search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;~~

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the new search request received by the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from among device lists stored in the storage unit, step and using the received identification information as a key, the ~~stored~~ device list associated with the identification information received in the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search performed prior to the new search performed in the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing ~~[[the]]~~ a new search result of the searching step with the device list obtained in the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices found by performing the new search in the searching step but not present in the device list obtained in the obtaining step, and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in the data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the device list formed in the forming step includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

9. (previously presented) A method performed by a network device managing apparatus that receives a search request transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs a search for network devices in response to receiving the search request, and transmits a device list indicating the network devices found by performing the search to the data processing apparatus, the method comprising:

a storage step of storing [[a]] the device list indicating the network devices found by [[a]] performing the search, the device list being associated stored in association with identification information that identifies [[a]] the data processing apparatus that requested transmitted the search request;

a receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a new search request for a new search [[of]] for network devices, and the identification information of a identifying the data processing apparatus initiating transmitting the new search request, from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the new search request received by the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from among device lists stored in the storage unit, step and using the received identification information as a key, the stored device list associated with the received identification information received in the receiving step, the obtained device list

indicating a search result obtained in a search performed prior to the new search ~~performed~~ in the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing ~~[[the]]~~ a new search result of the searching step with the device list obtained in the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices found by performing the new search in the searching step, of which ~~[[the]]~~ a state has been changed, and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in the forming step indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in the forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a network device managing apparatus that receives a search request transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs a search for network devices in response to receiving the

search request, and transmits a device list indicating the network devices found by performing the search to the data processing apparatus, the program comprising computer so as to execute:

a storage step of storing ~~[[a]]~~ the device list indicating the network devices found by ~~[[a]]~~ performing the search, the device list being ~~associated~~ stored in association with identification information ~~that identifies a~~ identifying the data processing apparatus that ~~requested~~ transmitted the search request;

a receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a new search request for a new search ~~[[of]]~~ for network devices, and the identification information ~~of a~~ identifying the data processing apparatus ~~initiating~~ transmitting the search request, ~~from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request~~;

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the new search request received by the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from among device lists stored in the storage ~~unit~~, step and using the received identification information as a key, the ~~stored~~ device list associated with the identification information received in the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained ~~[[in]]~~ by performing a search prior to performing the new search performed in the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing ~~[[the]]~~ a new search result of the searching step with the device list obtained in the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices found by the new search performed in the searching step but not present in the device list obtained in the obtaining step,



and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

13. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a network device managing apparatus that receives a search request transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs a search for network devices in response to receiving the search request, and transmits a device list indicating the network devices found by performing the search to the data processing apparatus, the program comprising ~~computer so as to execute:~~

a storage step of storing [[a]] device list indicating the network devices found by performing the [[a]] search, the device list being associated stored in association with identification information that identifies a identifying the data processing apparatus that requested transmitted the search request;

a receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a new search request for a new search [[of]] for network devices, and the identification information of a identifying the data processing apparatus initiating transmitting the search request, ~~from the data processing apparatus initiating the search request;~~

a searching step of performing a new search for network devices in response to the new search request received by the receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from among device lists stored in the storage unit, step and using the received identification information as a key, the stored device list associated

with the identification information received in the receiving step, the obtained device list indicating a search result obtained in a search performed prior to performing the new search ~~performed~~ in the searching step;

a comparing step of comparing [[the]] a new search result of the searching step with the device list obtained in the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying any network devices found by performing the new search in the searching step of which [[the]] a state has been changed, and forming a new device list in which such specified network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the new search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the new device list formed in the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

14. (cancelled).

15. (previously presented) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.

16. (cancelled).

17. (previously presented) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.